

Coercive Abortion Prevention Act Supporting News Stories

Topic	Article, Publication & Date	Description
Woman murdered after refusing to abort	"Jomiah Washington Charged in Murders of Daborah Young, 19, and His Unborn Baby," <i>WJBK Fox Detroit</i> , June 30, 2011.	Detroit man Jomiah Washington was charged with shooting in the head and killing 19 year-old Daborah Young, who was 5 months pregnant with his child. He then burned the bodies of Young and the unborn child. Relatives told authorities that Young had just had an ultrasound and given the baby a name, which angered Washington, who had pressured her to abort and threatened her.
Employer coerces employee to abort	"3 Women to Receive Payment in Bias Suit," <i>Washington Post</i> , September 15, 2005. "Bush Administration Settles Abortion-Discrimination Lawsuit," <i>Dept. of Justice Press Release</i> , September 7, 2005.	Three paramedics accused the Washington, D.C. Assistant Emergency Medical Services Chief of pressuring them into having abortions by telling them they could be fired if they became pregnant their first year on the job. One woman told authorities she aborted despite her beliefs because she was afraid of losing her job. She said she was told "she had a choice to make." The assistant chief later resigned from her job. The Bush administration intervened and the women were compensated \$101,000 plus attorney fees.
Student athletes pressured to abort	E. Sorensen, et. al., "The Need for Effective Student-Athlete Pregnancy and Parenting Policy," <i>Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics</i> , 1:25-45 (2009).	Report found that pregnant student-athletes "conceal pregnancy, feel forced into abortion, or lose scholarships because of pregnancy." The report recommends that colleges publish clear policies about student-athlete pregnancy and help create a safer health environment by advocating for pregnant and parenting student athletes.
Forced abortion used to cover up child sex abuse	"Former Local Gymnastics Coach Gets 8-10 Years in Prison in Child Rape Case." <i>Ctpost.com</i> , May 26, 2010.	Massachusetts gymnastics coach Steven Infante began forcing a student to have sex starting at age 14. When she was 17, he forced her to have an abortion to cover up the abuse. Infante also sexually abused another girl and was convicted of child rape and molestation and sentenced to 8-10 years in prison.
Parent attempts to force daughter to abort	"Father Jailed, Accused of Beating Pregnant Daughter," <i>19Action News.com</i> , July 7, 2008.	Cleveland man jailed after beating 16 year-old pregnant daughter with metal broom handle, planned to take her to abortion clinic and force her to abort.

Employer coerces employee to abort	"Stanley Told Former Assistant to Have Abortion," <i>The Daily Californian</i> , Sept. 17, 2002.	An assistant women's basketball coach won a settlement against the University of California at Berkeley, accusing the head coach of firing her after she refused to quit or to have an abortion. She later gave birth to a son. She sued for sexual discrimination and breach of contract for being forced to choose "between her child and a paycheck."
Minor girl murdered after refusing to abort	"Karesse Ebron's Killer Sentenced to 22 Years to Life," <i>The Journal News</i> , March 2, 2007.	New York man Ryan Ross, 23, admitted that he repeatedly hit Karesse Ebron, 16, with a baseball bat to because she refused to have an abortion. Ebron died of her injuries.
Abortion used to cover up child sex abuse	"West Palm Beach Woman Charged Over Daughter's Abortion," <i>Associated Press</i> , May 26, 2005.	West Palm Beach, Florida woman charged with evidence tampering and child neglect after arranging an abortion for her 17 year-old daughter during an incest investigation. Stepfather, 40, was charged with familial sexual battery.
Abortion used to cover up child sex abuse	"Man Guilty of Raping Twin Sisters: Women Describe Years of Abuse as Children." <i>The Times-Picayune</i> , April 12, 2003.	In New Orleans, a 41-year-old man received two life sentences for raping his girlfriend's twin daughters and using abortion to cover up his crimes. The victims testified that the assaults began when they were 10 and continued for seven years. One of the girls had two abortions after she became pregnant from the man when she was 15 and 17. The abuser paid for one abortion, unbeknownst to the mother. Her mother, who was told that the girl was raped by a date, paid for the second abortion.
Abortion used to cover up child sex abuse	"Planned Parenthood Found Negligent in Reporting Molested Teen's Abortion," <i>Associated Press</i> , December 26, 2002.	In Arizona, a judge found Planned Parenthood negligent for failing to report an abortion performed on a 13-year old girl who was sexually abused by her 23-year-old foster brother. The clinic did not notify authorities until the girl returned six months later for a <i>second</i> abortion. A lawsuit alleged that the girl was subjected to repeated abuse and a second abortion because of the clinic's failure to report suspected abuse. The foster brother was sentenced to prison.
Parent forces daughter to abort	"Police Arrest Georgia Mother, Cousins in Second Forced Abortion Case," <i>Associated Press</i> , September 26, 2006.	Roelletta Blackshire, along with her two nieces, were charged with forcing her pregnant 16 year-old daughter to drink turpentine to induce an abortion. The girl told her school guidance counselor, who was monitoring her as a possible victim of sexual assault, and she reported it to the police. Mother and nieces were charged with criminal abortion.

Coercive Abortion Prevention Act Supporting Studies

Issue Under Investigation	Study Citation	Study/Researcher Location	Study Findings	Study Conclusion
Homicide of pregnant women	Palladino, Christie Lancaster, et. al., "Homicide and Suicide During the Perinatal Period: Findings from the National Violent Death Reporting System." <i>Obstetrics & Gynecology</i> . November 2011; 118(5): pp. 1056-1063.	Georgia Health Sciences University, University of Michigan	Comprehensive analysis of CDC National Violent Death Reporting System data from 17 states. The leading cause of death for pregnant women was homicide, with 139 counts of pregnancy-associated murder, for a rate of 2.9 per 100,000. Suicide was second at 2 per 100,000. Pregnancy-related medical complications was third at less than 2 per 100,000.	Homicide is the leading cause of death for pregnant women, followed by suicide. 54% of suicides involved domestic violence that contributed to the suicide. Study authors urged screening pregnant women to prevent homicide and suicide.
Prevalence of abuse among women seeking abortion	Miller, Elizabeth, et. al., <i>Pregnancy Coercion, Intimate Partner Violence and Unintended Pregnancy.</i> 2010. pp. 316-322.	University of California-Davis; Planned Parenthood abortion clinics in northern CA	Survey of over 1200 women, both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking, who came to CA abortion clinic. 53% reported physical and/or sexual abuse from a partner at some point in their lives.	Women seeking services at abortion clinics have high rates of abuse; clinics need to screen and provide referrals.
Prevalence of abuse among women who abort	Taft, Angela, Lyn Watson. "Termination of pregnancy: associations with partner violence and other factors in a national cohort of young Australian women." <i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health</i> . 2007. 31: 135-142.	LaTrobe University, Australia; Melbourne, Australia	In analysis of over 9,500 Australian women, the women who had had an abortion were 3 times more likely to have suffered abuse from a partner.	Women seeking abortion have high rates of abuse; clinics need to screen: "...healthcare providers and pregnancy counseling services should ask women seeking terminations about their experiences of partner abuse and if necessary, refer them to supportive agencies."

Abuse in the relationship influences woman's decision to abort	Glander S., et. al., "The Prevalence of Domestic Violence Among Women Seeking Abortion." <i>Obstetrics & Gynecology</i> . Vol. 91. 1998.	Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; North Carolina abortion clinic	Surveyed 486 women seeking abortion services. 40% had suffered physical and/or sexual abuse over their lifetime. Abused women were significantly less likely to inform partner of the pregnancy, and more likely to state "relationship problems" as reason for having abortion.	Abuse influences woman's decision to abort; clinics need to screen for abuse: "A past or present abusive relationship does influence a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy." "When routine screening for abuse is included in abortion counseling, health providers have the opportunity for developing a safety plan and initiating proper referral."
Prevalence of abuse among women seeking abortion	Saftlas, Audrey F., et. al., Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among an Abortion Clinic Population. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> . Vol. 100., No. 8. August 2010.	University of Iowa researchers, study conducted at Iowa Planned Parenthood clinic	10.8% of women seen at the clinic reported physical and/or sexual abuse by their partner in the last year. This is three times the prevalence of DV experienced by women who continue their pregnancies (3.7%).	Women seeking abortion have high rates of abuse; clinics need to screen: "Women in violent relationships are more likely to seek abortion services." "Abortion patients experienced high rates of intimate partner violence, indicating the need for intimate partner violence screening followed by community-based referrals and interventions."
Prevalence of abuse among women who abort	Woo, Junda, et.al., "Abortion Disclosure and the Association with Domestic Violence." <i>The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists</i> . June 2005, Vol. 105 (6), pp. 1329-1334.	Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX Planned Parenthood abortion clinic	Results of questionnaires to over 800 women who had abortions at Houston PP. 17% hadn't told father. Of this 17%, almost a quarter said they had been physically and/or sexually abused in past year.	DV more common among abortion patients; clinics need to screen: "Domestic violence is a pervasive health problem, particularly among abortion patients." "Universal screening for domestic violence by all abortion providers is recommended."

Evaluation of policies to screen women for DV at abortion clinics	Breitbart, Vicki, Lisa Colarossi. "Implementing Intimate Partner Violence Screening in Family Planning Centers." <i>Family Violence Prevention & Health Practice</i> . June 25, 2010. Online at < http://endabuse.org/health/journal/2010/06/implementing-intimate-partner-violence-screening-in-family-planning-centers/ >	Planned Parenthood clinics of New York City, Colombia University	In 1998, Planned Parenthood of New York City implemented a policy of mandatory screening for IPV of all clients at all clinics. This study evaluates screening methods and found that questions about specific actions (hitting, threats) are more effective than general ?s, i.e. "Have you been abused?" 90% of 645 clients surveyed said they would not mind answering screening ?s.	PP NYC mandatory screening working well and should be expanded to all abortion clinics: <i>"Universal IPV screening should be implemented in all reproductive health care settings."</i> <i>"[IPV] is a prevalent health care issue that requires universal screening and appropriate follow-up assessment and referral."</i>
Evaluation of policies to screen for DV at abortion clinic	Wiebe, Ellen R., Patricia Janssen. "Universal Screening for Domestic Violence in Abortion." <i>Women's Health Issues</i> . September/October 2001. Vol. 11, No. 5.	British Columbia, Canada abortion facility	The study evaluates how well abortion clinic personnel at a clinic in British Columbia, Canada, complied with a mandatory clinic policy to screen every woman for domestic violence. Only half the women seen at the clinic (254 of 499) were screened. Reasons that clinic employees gave for not screening included that the woman did not speak adequate English, the partner was in the room, the woman was distraught, and the employee was rushed or ran out of time.	Universal screening is "challenging but feasible," and "women were receptive to this screening."